

# T News Letter

# TDARS

G3ZME  
G6ZME

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

[www.TDARS.org.uk](http://www.TDARS.org.uk)

FOUNDED 1969

[www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk](http://www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk)

Issue 260

Nov / Dec 2013

[www.TDARS.org.uk](http://www.TDARS.org.uk)

## Programme

[www.telfordhamfest.co.uk](http://www.telfordhamfest.co.uk)

- November 13 Surplus Equipment Sale—M/C Eric M0KZB
- November 20 View HamFest (Rob Mannion G3XFD) Video recording ( Note date change)
- November 27 PSK et al using the Raspberry Pi, with Eric M0KZB (Note date change)
- December 4 Committee Meeting and GX3ZME OTA
- December 11 Annual Christmas Dinner. The Duck@ Allscott. Booking Form back page.
- December 18 Mince Pies & Mulled Wine Social. Club HQ
- December 25 Merry Christmas: No Meeting
- January 1—2014 Morning track G0VXG on Wrekin on 2m. Club Net 144.6 MHz from 1500 hrs.
- January 8 Committee Meeting and GX3ZME On-the-Air
- January 15 Winter Projects progress meeting. Start dummy load/power meter project.
- January 22 Video Evening.
- January 29 Web SDR demo. [Online Web Receivers]
- February 5 Committee Meeting and GX3ZME On-the-Air
- February 12 Under-a-Five construction competition
- February 19 Summits on the Air: Guest speaker Richard Newstead G3CWI  
*For Amateur Radio Exam Training—enquiries to Mike G3JKX (01952 299677)*  
*For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.*  
*For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Simon 2E0CHV or Don 2E0DSN*  
Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: [www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html](http://www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html)

## Editorial

So far, this autumn is a typical damp, dreary affair. The local rivers are near to overflowing their banks and trees are endlessly drip, drip, dripping. Thoughts of going into hibernation, or better still, going to live abroad seem like a good idea right now. So, putting such dreams aside, perhaps it's a good idea to either plan for next spring/summer's outdoor events, or to start that winter construction project.

Despite two club meetings and several committee meeting discussions devoted to this perennial subject, no single project seems to have captured members' imaginations. So, this time there are several projects proposed—see next page—and we hope most Members will have a go with at least one of these.

I've always thought the Intermediate Licence practical construction requirement has been one of the best aspects of that exam syllabus, and with Mike's (G3JKX) enthusiasm for making things, it has been very successful locally with prospective 2E0xxx trainees.

The satisfaction of 'rolling your own' was summed up for me when I built a QRP transmitter some years ago. It only gave about 2 watts of CW on one band (40 metres), but I took it with me to several local portable sites as well as abroad on several holidays. I mostly QSOd only strong stations, and never outside Europe, but I really enjoyed every last contact I made. However, when the Yaesu FT-817 came along, I couldn't resist buying one of the early models, as it gave me all bands from 160m to 70cm, and all modes with up to 5 watts, all at a reasonable cost. I chose to sell my earlier kit for a few quid, as it seemed redundant.

Well, I have to say that I still enjoy taking the '817 out with me, usually for portable microwave activity, using it as an IF from one of the microwave bands. It is an excellent rig, which is so light and flexible, and no other rig yet matches its facilities. But I have to admit that even now I do not get quite the thrill I used to get from my QRP, home brew, single band, CW only rig.

There must be a moral there, somewhere. So, go on, have a go with one of this winter's TDARS construction projects—you won't regret it.

MIV

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**LATE NEWS:** I have just had a very sad phone call from Martyn 2E0CTG to say he has received an E-mail from a relative of Phil Ealham 2E0GIV to say that Phil unexpectedly died on Sunday 3rd. November. No further details were available at this time.

**TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

**CHAIRMAN:** Derek Southey G0EYX (01785 604904)

**VICE-CHAIRMAN:** Martyn Vincent (01952 255416)

**SECRETARY:** Mike Street G3JKX (01952 299677)

**TREASURER:** Jim Wakenell G8UGL (01952 684173)

**CURATOR :** Simon 2E0CHV (01588 673053)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416)

**PUBLICITY :** Dave GOCER (01630 638699 or 07971 416940, leave msg)

**Committee:** Richard G0VXG; Simon G0UFE; Eric M0KZB; Martin 2E0TRO; Richy M0RKY, John M0JZH; Brian G6UDX; Trophies/Certs: G3UKV; QSL Manager Paul M0PNN; Assist. Curator: Don 2E0DSN

# *Qtc: News & Information*



**TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE ON THE FRONT PAGE PROGRAMME.**

**ROOM BOOKED FROM 7PM - 10PM.**

**MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM**

**Please note: A current membership card must be shown to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .**

The **TDARS Winter Projects** now include a **100W dummy load** with power meter (G0UFE leading this one); **QRSS Transmitter** kit, Hans Summers design, (M0PNN); **LFA 8 element 2m antenna** (or similar Innov G0KSC antenna design), led by M0PNN; **"Plasma Nuller"** (SPRAT #145 winter 2010 design) - to null out local noises, ~3 to 11MHz , by using a simple phase nulling circuit and antenna—led by G3UKV; and finally, Richard G0VXG is willing to help anyone interested in making a **digital transceiver based around an Arduino** chip circuit board with extra modules. (SPRAT # 156, Autumn 2013).

It is proposed for those choosing to build the 100W dummy load/power meter, will start making this straightforward project actually at a club evening meeting (**JANUARY 15th**) - cost about £12. Other projects will mostly be built at home, but still sharing ideas and progress at the club during the winter months, and hopefully complete before the Construction Competition (**MARCH 12th**). Exact prices have yet to be confirmed, but will be 'at cost'.

The Committee have spent considerable discussion time to regularise the **borrowing of Club Equipment**. Whilst there is not a widespread problem, there have been a very few items of equipment not returned on time, or not signed out properly, which has taken much curator's time to track and confirm. Therefore, the committee have decided the following:- Only currently paid-up members may borrow equipment, and this is confirmed by showing your membership card, signed for the current year [Jim requests that when you pay your sub in 2014, **you also provide your club card for signing at the same time**]. As before, most loans are for just a week, but in some cases (eg borrowing an antenna), this may not be practical. Normally, return the item the following Wednesday, and then if no one else wishes to borrow that particular item, it can be loaned for a further week by the same person. Report any breakage or non-working equipment on its return. Whilst we expect members to treat club equipment as they would their own, faults and accidents DO happen, and it is more helpful to report any fault or damage, for the sake of other users that follow, and to maintain a really first class inventory and loan service. If you have any queries, speak to curators Simon (2E0CHV) or Don (2E0DSN).



John (M0JZH) and others, have spent many hours checking and updating club equipment records, so that a **fully accessible database** has now been created, which gives the precise location (eg cupboard number) of every item TDARS owns. Whenever something is borrowed, it is recorded (person & membership confirmation, date, item ref.) by the curator (or his deputy), and likewise when it is returned. The system is as simple as possible, and will be tweaked as necessary in the coming weeks. The database will also enable us to monitor usage over a period to see which items are most useful to TDARS members, which should help identify future purchases. The committee hopes that everyone will co-operate with the changes, which are for the common good of all members.

Recent use of the two **club mobile masts**, such as during G100RSGB, has shown a need for some maintenance and refurbishment work, particularly on one winch plus cabling of sections on both masts.. This is taking place over the winter in preparation for portable events next year.



Following the 2013 contest success of Simon G0UFE and his team in the **50 MHz Trophy** event, a **new antenna for the band** has been purchased. It's a real monster 7 element antenna, with a boom length of almost 10 metres! It's currently sitting in Simon's garage, awaiting build and testing.

Likewise, the **70cm station**, used for the first time for many years during VHF NFD last July, is due for some improvement, with a **masthead pre-amp**, together with associated relays and sequencer. During Field Day, G3ZME/P were runners-up on 70cm in the QRP (25W) section—so with a hotter receiver, perhaps we can grab the top-spot next year? Brian G6UDX is working on this particular project.

The **Results of VHF NFD** have been out for some time, but in case you didn't know, **TDARS won the Mix and Match Section** of the contest, after missing out in 2012 due to the appalling weather, when we cancelled our entry as the site was unusable. (flooded).

**50MHz** : 128 QSOs, 10th of 28 entries.—Restricted section

**144MHz**: 371 QSOs, 4th of 31 entries—Restricted section

**432MHz**: 87 QSOs, 2nd of 10 entries—Low power section

**1296MHz**: 38 QSOs, 1st of 2 entries—Low power section

Congratulations to all those involved. Three Members (G0CER, G3UKV, G0EYX) collected the **G5BY Trophy** at the recent RSGB Convention at Horwood Hall, near Milton Keynes in October.



@g3zme

TDARS has held the **Special Contest Call G3Z** for a number of years, but it was due for renewal at the end of this year as it's issued in 3 year blocks. As it has not been used extensively by Members, (only G0CER, G0UFE, M0PNN and a small microwave sub-group of members) there was some concern that our renewal request might not meet OfCOM /RSGB usage requirements. However, renewal for a further 3 years has been confirmed, and the best news is that it can now be used for any recognized UK or Worldwide contest. So, there's no

excuse for Members **not** to use G3Z from January 2014 onwards. Simply contact Martyn G3UKV (who holds the NoV) if you would like to use it in a specific contest. It is only allowed to be used by TDARS Members, a log **MUST** be kept, and a contest entry is expected to be made. As mentioned before, it is not intended for casual, after-Sunday-lunch 'ego' contacts ! By the way, if you decide to have-a-go, be prepared to have stations say "G3Z—what else?" or similar, whether you use phone or CW. It happens—but it's still fun to use! One other point, the RSGB may decide to **NOT ALLOW** the use of a SCC in some of their contests—so check the rules for 2014 before diving in . . .

John M0JZH and helpers put on an excellent **Jamboree on the Air** (JOTA) station last month from the local Scout HQ building in Wellington. See separate report.

At the next AGM, Mike G3JKX proposes to **retire as TDARS Hon. Secretary**. Mike took on this position as far back as March 1996, which is a fantastic record. So, TDARS is looking for a new Secretary at the 2014 AGM. Mike says the office is not too onerous, and involves an occasional letter or e-mail to be sent, as well as taking (and forwarding) Minutes at monthly committee meetings. So, Members, please give this matter your attention !

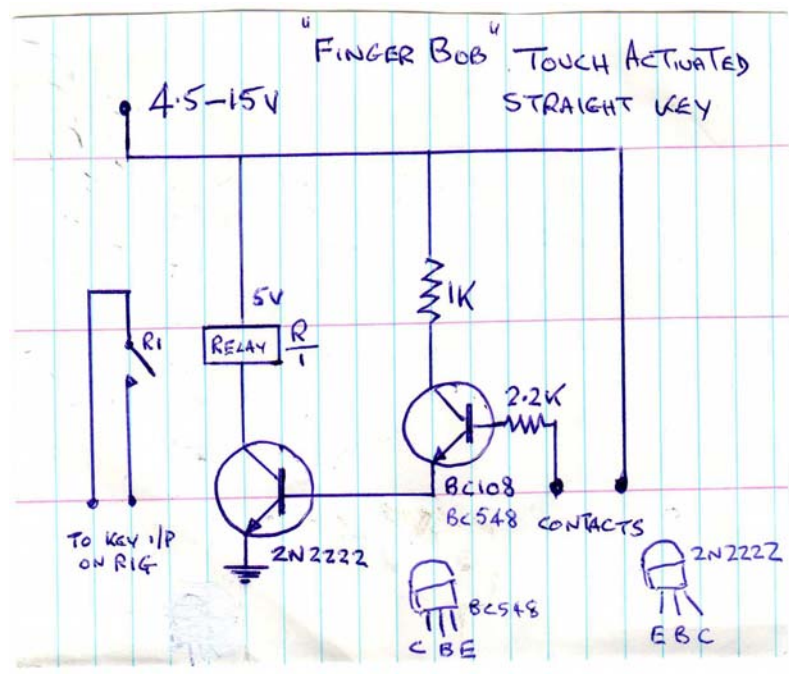
Another message from Mike 'JKX . . . The premises sometimes used for **amateur radio examinations** at the business premises of Trevor 2E0TTB, are no longer available. Can anyone offer a suitable alternative venue, at modest (or no) cost ? Contact Mike 01952 299677 or e-mail. See Mike's article that follows.

Thanks to Bob (M0RJS) for his editing and recording work making a **DVD of Rob Mannion's talk** at this year's Telford Hamfest. It will now be shown at TDARS on **Wed. 20th November**.

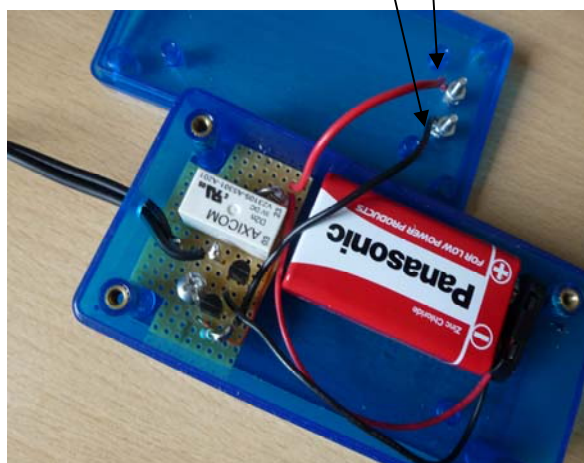
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## Finger Bob touch activated straight key—by Norman G0ASP

Taken from SPRAT 153



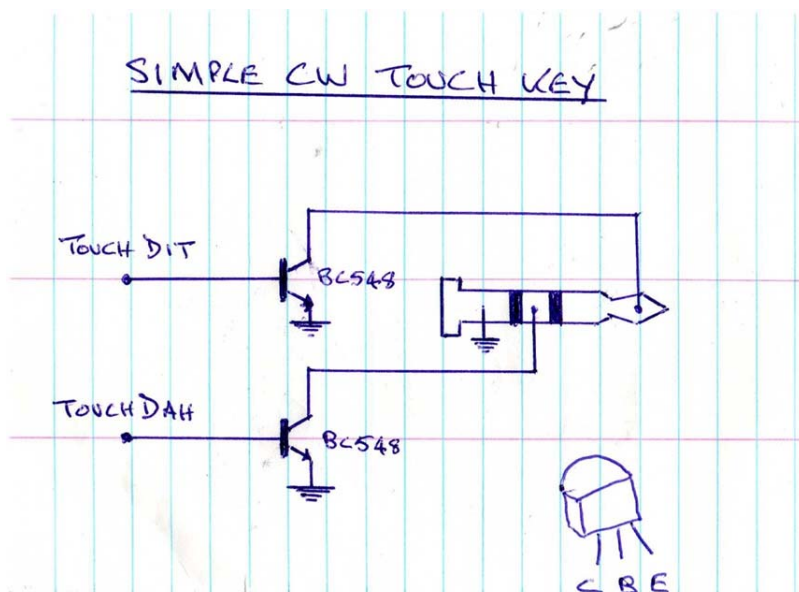
Contacts are screw terminals on the lid of the enclosure. Supply 9 Volt PP3 size battery. Tapping your moist finger across terminals allows BC 548 to turn on enough to drive and switch the 2n2222, thus operating the 5V relay. Its contacts connect to your rig to key CW. **Finger Bob Contacts,**



## Simplest CW Keyer—by Norman G0ASP

To operate you will need to increase base current. This means connecting yourself to the positive supply that is feeding the transceiver. i.e. Positive 13.8 volts **not mains**. You could use an anti-static wrist strap connecting your wrist, ankle or any part of the body. A simple and cheap way is to connect a crocodile clip to the positive and hold the wire end from it in your hand. This key can be used in the shack , mobile or portable.

[Editor's Note: This keyer requires the transceiver to have an inbuilt keyer to work. Most modern rigs have this facility.]



**Thanks for Newsletter input from Mike G3JKX, Simon 2E0CHV, John M0JZH, Norman G0ASP, Bob M0RJS, Martyn 2E0CTG, Derek G0EYX, Dave G0CER. Items always welcome in any format. Next Newsletter about mid January 2014.**



## G100RSGB Report: Telford & District ARS, RSGB Region 5

[The Report below was sent to the RSGB Centenary organiser the day after our G100RSGB NoV expired]

Telford & District ARS started planning for their involvement in running a G100RSGB station early in the spring. They applied for a couple of slots, to include a Wednesday (their club meeting night) and a weekend. Unfortunately, with only four weekends available, they got the short straw as only October 26/27 was available, which neatly covered the 48 hour CQ WorldWide DX SSB contest – so it was quickly decided to concentrate on the WARC bands and VHF/UHF. However, it was also decided to operate on all 13 bands that qualify for the RSGB Centenary awards (160m to 70cm, excluding the 60m band), so antennas and rigs were prepared, using club-owned equipment and aerials as far as possible for all bands.

TDARS club premises are great, but there is limited scope for good antennas, so the decision was made to operate from the nearby Little Wenlock Parish Field. Plenty of room, but also a clayey, water-retaining soil. Four stations were established, covering LF (160-30m), HF (20-10m), VHF/UHF covering 6, 4, 2m and 70cm, plus a separate 2m/70cm vertical (FM) set-up.

About 25 club members participated in one way or another, and gave all 13 bands a good airing, with about 1000 QSOs in 53 DXCC entities, using a mixture of beam and wire antennas. We avoided the CQ WW SSB contest in general, although a few ops seemed to like receiving “59-14” reports. The weather threw everything at us over both sessions, and it was interesting to clear the field of tents, towers and masts at the end of the Wednesday session in darkness. Wellies were the order of the day – every day !

A few random observations from our three days of activity: – G100RSGB is a #~@+\*]# to send using CW, but a memory keyer helps; club turnout and support was magnificent, and a motivation for further expeditions and equipment improvements; propagation after two X rated solar flares, was very mixed, to put it mildly; the DX spotting and RSGB ‘Alerts’ system were a god-send in guiding stations to the current frequencies in use. For example, there were 149 ‘spots’ for G100RSGB over the weekend. Finally everyone said they had had a great time.

Humour was a vital ingredient in the awful weather conditions of late October – good luck to those that followed in November/December in Regions 1 and 8, especially if they also choose to operate portable. The VHF/UHF FM station was the only one **not** to operate in a tent, and following a comment sent by a station working Simon (G0UFE) in his work’s van, to the effect that he was fortunate to be better protected from the elements with some home comforts, he replied that really the other on-site tented stations were far better off, . . . as they had the luxury of running water !



## Mike's Piece . . .

At this time I am tutoring two Advanced licence students by phone, Skype, e mail, mail and amateur radio. This is the Bath Based Distance Learning scheme who are now taking bookings for next year. £30 pounds to enrol, which you get back if you finish the course. (in time to pay the exam fee of £37.00)

Many students are worried about the maths involved. Well, to be frank, there can only be about 5 or 6 really awkward maths problems to deal with and one of my pupils, whose last remaining brain cell has had enough, is flatly refusing to do any math based questions. He'll just guess them. As he has been averaging about 70% on the weekly tests; he'll be OK I think.

Anyone thinking of joining the scheme can ask me to show them some of the paperwork that they will have to negotiate. Basically the course lasts 16 weeks with revision and coverage of problem areas thereafter, until the exam.

At least 2 hours of study per week is advised, which works out at about 40 hours over the 25 weeks! Not a heavy workload by any means. Remember that the exam is based entirely on the contents of the ADVANCE book. There are NO practical elements to do.

It is very sad to report that TDARS has just lost the examination venue kindly provided free of charge by Trevor, 2E0TTB, who has not been well and who has sold his business. I would like to place on record my grateful thanks to him and his XYL for their support for me and all the students who have used their training room over the years. Fortunately we still have the Little Wenlock Village Hall to fall back on. But students have to pay for its use. So.....I am looking for a new exam venue, which will have to be vetted by the RCF, where the hourly fee is reasonable (or free), which has a loo and wheelchair access.

vy 73 Mike G3JKX

~+

Receiving the G5BY Trophy from RSGB President G3PJT : October 13 2013







## GB4WSG & JOTA : 19 – 20 Oct. 2013 by John M0JZH



This was our second JOTA with the Second Wellington Scout Group, to which we were able to make some improvements to the station set up last year. Last year being our first there, we felt that our arrangements did not fully realise the radio potential of the site. This time we went for an off centre fed dipole for our main antenna – cut at 135' long in a 2:1 ratio, and our second antenna was a 15m dipole that also produced acceptable results on both 12m and 17m as well. The two antennas were put perpendicular to each other to minimise any cross modulation that we may experience. Our third and final antenna was the club's 2m co-linear mounted on top of one of the club's mobile masts – as was the balun for the OCFD (fortunately in Telford for the G100RSGB events). The chosen bands that we planned to work with were also harmonically unrelated, this worked a treat. Although we were not planning a marathon radio event to see how many stations that we could reach in the 2 day event. However, in total we managed to work 109 stations in 26 countries. One of these stood out as memorable – Aeronautical Mobile!!! Peter 2E0ZSU worked a guy PH9HB flying a Boeing 747 40km North of Santander at 38,000ft – memorable indeed.

Wellington are already looking forward to working with us again next year, a good time was had by all, however my lesson was whilst working in zulu time – keep your eye on the BST clock else the shops are shut!!

Many thanks to the following people for attending and helping out.

2E0CHV – Simon	M6LMD – Robin – our star 2m operator
2E0KLS – Speedy	2E0DSN – Don
G3UKV – Martyn	G0ASP – Norman
G3JKX – Mike	2E0DTB – Dave
2E0ZSU – Peter	G8VZT – Dave
G0UFE – Simon	



Without your help it would have been very difficult if not impossible to put on such a successful operation – and not a G5RV in sight!!!



### Four Metres (70 mhz) Band by Simon 2E0CHV

As many of you will be aware, I was Station Manager for the VHF/UHF station when TDARS activated the RSGB Centenary call G100RSGB, ably assisted by Speedy (2E0KLS), Paul (M0PNN) and others. With the help of Paul (PNN) and John (M0JZH) spotting us, we had quite a steady run of contacts.

The one band which really interested me was 70mhz or 4 metres. We were equipped courtesy of Dave G8VZT with a 100 watt all mode station and worked 32 contacts on the band. Before the event, some people commented it would be very quiet, and whilst we were not overrun with contacts, every person worked thanked us for our efforts activating this underused band. We had QSOs on both SSB and FM modes and many said we were their first contact for the week or even longer, but they always monitor the calling frequencies. This got me thinking that perhaps TDARS members could generate interest in the band by arranging the odd club net etc.

From these initial thoughts, conversations were had over a pint with both John (M0JZH) and Don (2E0DSN) and we decided to become active on the band, first of all on FM. So the seed was sown, antennas are in the process of being made and put up, transceivers (ex pmr equipment) are being sourced and we shall soon be ready to get active on 4!

We shall publicise any planned activity on the band at TDARS meetings and would like to invite you all to join in.

73 Simon

### Also from Simon, 2E0CHV...

The picture below was taken during our club activation of Wroxeter Roman Town using the callsign GX6ZME/P on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2013. But what on earth are our three monkeys up to? From left to right, our three wise monkeys are: Dave 2E0DTB, John M0JZH and Albert 2E0KDF





## Photo Gallery Extra –and more . . .



J. O. T. A : 2013



G100RSCB

### Subject: Fun Fun...Spell checker

The joys of compootering

Eye halve a spelling chequer  
It came with my pea sea  
It plainly marques four my revue  
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.  
Eye strike a quay and type a word  
And weight four it two say  
Weather eye am wrong oar write  
It shows me strait a weigh.  
As soon as a mist ache is maid  
It nose bee fore two long  
And eye can put the error rite  
Its rare lea ever wrong.  
Eye have run this poem threw it  
I am shore your pleased two no  
Its letter perfect awl the weigh  
My chequer tolled me sew.

Sunshine and smiles

[Scent bye Derryck—G0EYX]

G100RSCB





**Annual TDARS Christmas Dinner  
at The Duck at Allscott Inn  
Wed. 11th December 2013**

**Booking Form: Please return by Wed. Dec. 4th latest:**



Use this page to make your Booking ASAP, or by Wednesday 4th December at the very latest.  
Pass it, e-mail or post it to Martyn G3UKV. The cost is £17.50 per person, payable on the night.  
Cancellations less than 2 days before the Dinner may have to be paid for.

MENU	NUMBER REQUIRED
Tomato & Roasted Sweet Red Pepper served with rustic bread	
Baked Mushroom with Goats Cheese and homemade pesto	
Smooth Duck & Port Pate served with chutney & rustic bread	
King Prawns on mixed leaves with Rose Marie sauce	
Rainbow Trout fillet with a with a Lemon Mayonaise	
Pear, Roquefort and Walnut Salad with Walnut oil dressing	
Black Pudding Kebab served with a Port and Cumberland Sauce	
*****	*****
Shropshire Turkey with pigs in blankets and a sage & onion stuffing	
Chicken Breast butterflied in a creamy white wine, leeks and tarragon sauce	
Roast Cherrington Beef and Yorkshire pudding	
Shropshire Pork Chop served with Shropshire Blue cheese sauce	
Salmon Fillet with King Prawns- cream, white wine and dill sauce	
Caramelised Red Onion and Sage Tart with red pesto and grilled goats cheese. (Other vegetarian options are available)	
8 oz Prime Cherrington Sirloin Steak (cooked to your liking) served with mushrooms and onion rings (£3 extra). - chips optional.	
Breast of Duck with port and raspberry sauce (£3 extra)	
*****	*****
Traditional Christmas Pudding topped with a brandy sauce	
Baileys and Hazelnut Cheesecake with ice cream	
Orange Bread and Butter Pudding	
Mega Chocolate Fudge cake served warm with ice cream	
Apple and Plum Crumble served with custard	
Toffee and Pecan Roulade served with cream	
Chocolate Bar Sundae	

**NAME: ..... 7:30 for 8 pm**

**Coffee or Tea with treats served afterwards.**

**The Duck at Allscott Inn (tel: 01952 248484) is located on the B4394 Road, right  
next to the closed sugar beet factory site, about 3 miles west of Wellington.  
Partner, Friend & Family WELCOME !**